



3651 09/24/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

) Date: July 22, 2003

William E. Ryan et al.

) Attorney Docket No.: F-424

Serial No.: 10/036,991

) Customer No.:

Filed: December 31, 2001

)



Confirmation No.: 5304

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b) exists.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with the following provisions, as identified below with marked boxes, available under 37 CFR § 1.97:

1. ☒ 37 CFR §1.97(b) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to one of the following: (i) within 3 months of the filing date of this application (other than a CPA); (ii) within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; (iii) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or (iv) before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

OR

2. ☐ 37 CFR §1.97(c) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of any of a final action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and it is accompanied by the statement or fee as identified below:

2.1 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

2.2 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

OR

2.3 ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

**** Provisional Fee Authorization.** If Box 2.1 or Box 2.2 is marked above and a final action under § 1.113 has in fact been mailed before the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p) as if Box 2.3 had been marked.

OR

3. ☐ 37 CFR §1.97(d) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed on or before payment of the issue fee and it is accompanied by the statement and fee as identified below:

3.1.1 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

3.1.2 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

AND

3.2 ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. **16-1885** in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

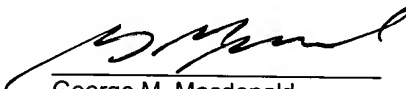
A list of the patent(s) and/or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Modified).

A copy of each of the items on PTO-1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. **16-1885**.

A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed for use in charging the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Plus attachments: Form PTO-1449 (Modified)
One copy of each of the references

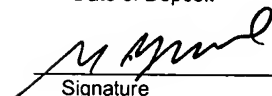
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Name of Registered Rep.


Signature

July 22, 2003
Date



FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)				Atty. Docket Number F-424		Serial No. 10/036,991	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Applicant William E. Ryan et al.			
				Filing Date December 31, 2001		Group 3651	
GROUP 1700 U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	US2003/005 8099A1	3/27/03	Steven W. Lopez et al.	340	540	4/30/02
	AB	US2002/012 4664A1	9/12/02	Charles J. Call, et al.	73	863.22	2/1/02
	AC	US2002/012 6008A1	9/12/02	Steven W. Lopez et al.	340	540	10/31/01
	AD	US2002/014 1613A1	10/3/02	Ronald P. Sansone	382	101	3/27/01
	AE	4,485,308	11/27/84	Jacob G. Rabatin	250	461.1	4/26/82
	AF	5,166,755	11/24/92	Nahum Gat	356	419	5/23/90
	AG	5,600,303	2/4/97	Abdo A. Hussein et al.	340	568	6/6/95
	AH	5,675,070	10/7/97	Alan Gelperin	73	23.34	2/9/96
	AI	6,169,936 B1	1/2/01	Boris Lohmann	700	224	5/24/95
	AJ	6,303,889	10/16/01	George L. Hayduchok, et al.	209	584	2/15/00
	AK	6,567,008 B1	5/20/03	Ronald P. Sansone	340	666	5/2/02
FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL	0 298 769 A2	08/07/88	EPO	B 07	C 1/00	
	AM						
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	AN						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							